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B I L L

TO

Amend the Law relating to the Election of Poor Law
Guardians in Ireland.

A.D. 1883.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the laws relating to the elections of Poor Law Guardians in Ireland, and to provide that in all contested elections for Poor Law Guardians the poll shall be taken by ballot:

5 Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. All Poor Law Guardians elected after the *first day of* Guardians to hold office for three years.
10 *March one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four* shall be elected to hold office for a term of *three years* to be computed from the *twenty-fifth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four* instead of for one year as at present provided. At the expiration of such term of three years and of each successive such
15 term, fresh elections shall take place.

Provided that when a casual vacancy occurs in the office of guardian, by death, resignation, or otherwise, during any such term of three years, an election shall be held to fill the vacancy, but the guardians so elected shall hold office only for the remainder
20 of the term during which he has been elected, and that in all cases all the guardians shall vacate office together at the expiration of each term.

2. Every contested election of any Poor Law Guardians or Guardian that shall take place after the *first day of March*
25 *one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four* shall be conducted by ballot, and the poll at every such election shall, so far as circumstances admit, be taken in the manner now prescribed by law for taking the poll at contested municipal elections in Ireland.

From 1st
March 1884
elections to
be conducted
by ballot.

[Bill 30.]

A.D. 1883.

Local
Government
Board to
frame regu-
lations by
sealed order.

3. Before the *first of October next* the Local Government Board of Ireland shall frame such general regulations for the management of elections of Poor Law Guardians as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act, with similar penalties for the breach of such regulations as are now provided by the law regulating municipal elections in Ireland. They shall by such regulations prescribe and appoint the persons to be returning officers at such elections, and the places at which the polling is to take place, and they may also make such regulations as they shall think fit for regulating the mode of nominating candidates, the interval that is to elapse between the nomination and the poll, and all such other matters as may be necessary to provide for the management of such elections. All such regulations shall be made by sealed order, and may from time to time be varied and repealed, and new regulations made by sealed order. The first general regulations so made under this Act shall be laid upon the table of both Houses of Parliament as parliamentary returns.

Voters to
vote in
person.

4. Provided always, that any person voting at such election shall, in order to give his vote, attend in person at the place appointed for the polling.

Voter to
receive a
number of
ballot papers
equal to the
number of
his votes, and
may accumu-
late them if
he thinks fit.
School houses,
constabulary
barracks, &c.
may be used
for taking the
poll at Poor
Law elections.

5. If any person is entitled to more than one vote at any one election he shall be entitled to receive a number of separate ballot papers equal to the number of votes which he is entitled to give, and he shall be entitled to deposit each and all such ballot papers in the box in the same manner to all intents and purposes as if he were giving a single vote for each separate ballot paper.

6. The returning officer at an election for a Poor Law Guardian in Ireland may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking a poll at such election, any room in any national school house, constabulary barracks, or court or sessions house in Ireland which may be convenient for the purpose.

Saving cer-
tain powers
of Local
Government
Board.

7. Nothing herein contained shall alter or abridge any power now vested in the Local Government Board of regulating such elections in any manner not inconsistent under this Act.

Short title.

8. This Act may be cited as the Poor Law Guardians Elections, Ireland, Act, 1883.